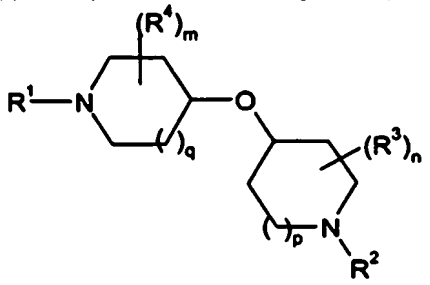
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

wherein:
R^1 represents aryl, heteroaryl,-aryl-X-aryl, -aryl-X-heteroaryl, -aryl-X-heterocyclyl, -heteroaryl-X-heteroaryl, -heteroaryl-X-aryl or –heteroaryl-X-heterocyclyl;
wherein said aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl groups of R^1 may be optionally substituted by one or more (e.g. 1, 2 or 3) substituents which may be the same or different, and which are selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, cyano, nitro, oxo, haloC_{1-6} alkyl, polyhaloC_{1-6} alkyl, haloC_{1-6} alkoxy, polyhaloC_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, C_{1-6} alkoxyC_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkylC_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkanoyl, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulfinyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonyloxy, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonylC_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulfonamidoC_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylamidoC_{1-6} alkyl, aryl, arylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyloxy, aryloxy, arylsulfonamido, arylcarboxamido, aroyl, or a group –COR^{15}, -$COOR^{15}$, $NR^{15}R^{16}$, -$CONR^{15}R^{16}$, -$NR^{15}COR^{16}$, -$NR^{15}SO_2R^{16}$ or -$SO_2NR^{15}R^{16}$, wherein R^{15} and R^{16} independently represent hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, haloC_{1-6} alkyl, polyhaloC_{1-6} alkyl or C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or together form a heterocyclic ring;
X represents a bond, O, CO, SO_2, OCH_2 or CH_2O;
R^2 represents C_{3-8} alkyl, C_{3-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} alkynyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{5-6} cycloalkenyl or -C_{1-4}alkyl-C_{3-6} cycloalkyl;
wherein said C_{3-6} cycloalkyl groups of R^2 may be optionally substituted by one or more (e.g. 1, 2 or 3) substituents which may be the same or different, and which are selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups;
each R^3 and R^4 group independently represents C_{1-4} alkyl;
m and n independently represents 0, 1 or 2;
p and q independently represents 1 or 2;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 wherein R^1 represents
-aryl optionally substituted by a cyano, –$CONR^{15}R^{16}$, –COR^{15}, halogen or –$NR^{15}COR^{16}$ group;
-heteroaryl optionally substituted by a cyano, C_{1-6} alkyl, polyhaloC_{1-6} alkyl, –$CONR^{15}R^{16}$, -COR^{15} or –$COOR^{15}$ group;
-aryl-X-heterocyclyl;

-aryl-X-heteroaryl optionally substituted by a halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or aryl group; or -heteroaryl-X-heterocyclyl.

3. A compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 2 wherein R^1 represents pyrid-3-yl optionally substituted by a $-CONR^{15}R^{16}$ group, –phenyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl optionally substituted by a C_{1-6} alkyl group, phenyl optionally substituted by a $-COR^{15}$ group, pyridazin-3-yl optionally substituted by a polyhaloC_{1-6} alkyl group, pyrazin-2-yl optionally substituted by a polyhaloC_{1-6} alkyl or pyrimidin-5-yl optionally substituted by a polyhaloC_{1-6} alkyl group.

4. A compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 3 wherein R^1 represents pyrid-3-yl optionally substituted by a 6–CON(H)(Me) or 6–CON(H)(Et) group, 3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl, phenyl optionally substituted by a 4–COMe group, pyridazin-3-yl optionally substituted by a 6–CF_3 group or pyrimidin-5-yl optionally substituted by a 2–CF_3 group.

5. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein m and n represent 0.

6. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein p and q represent 1.

7. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein R^2 represents C_{3-8} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or -C_{1-4}alkyl-C_{3-6} cycloalkyl.

8. A compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 7 wherein R^2 represents 1-methylpropyl, isopropyl, cyclobutyl or $-CH_2$-cyclopropyl.

9. A compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 8 wherein R^2 represents isopropyl or cyclobutyl.

10. A compound as defined in claim 1 which is a compound of formula E1-E120 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. A compound as defined in claim 1 which is
1-(1-Methylethyl)-4-({1-[4-(3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl)phenyl]-4-piperidinyl}oxy)piperidine;
5-{4-[(1-Cyclobutyl-4-piperidinyl)oxy]-1-piperidinyl}-*N*-methyl-2-pyridinecarboxamide;
1-(4-{4-[(1-Cyclobutyl-4-piperidinyl)oxy]-1-piperidinyl}phenyl)ethanone;
3-{4-[(1-Cyclobutyl-4-piperidinyl)oxy]-1-piperidinyl}-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyridazine; or
5-{4-[(1-Cyclobutyl-4-piperidinyl)oxy]-1-piperidinyl}-2-(trifluoromethyl)pyrimidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

13. A compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11 for use in therapy.

14. A compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11 for use in the treatment of neurological diseases.

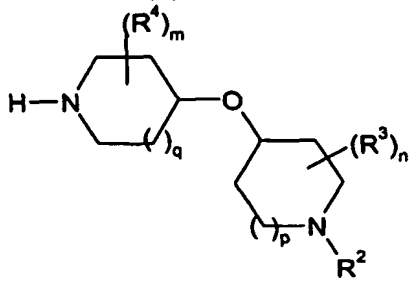
15. Use of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of neurological diseases.

16. A method of treatment of neurological diseases which comprises administering to a host in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. A pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment of neurological diseases which comprises the compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 11 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which process comprises:

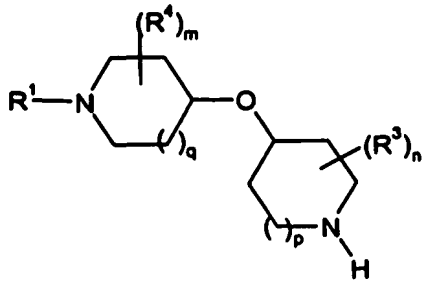
(a) reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein R^2, R^3, R^4, m, n, p and q are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula R^1-L^1, wherein R^1 is as defined in claim 1 and L^1 represents a suitable leaving group, such as a halogen atom; or

(b) reacting a compound of formula (III)

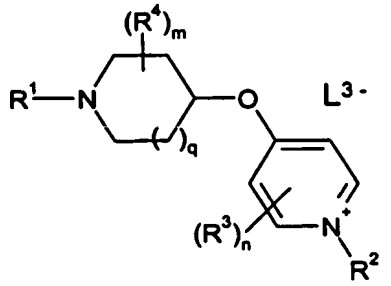


(III)

wherein R^1, R^3, R^4, m, n, p and q are as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula R^2-L^2 where R^2 is as defined in claim 1 and L^2 represents a suitable leaving group, such as a halogen atom or a sulfonate such as methanesulfonate; or

(c) reacting a compound of formula (III) as defined above with a compound of formula H-$R^{2'}$=O under reductive conditions, wherein $R^{2'}$ is as defined in claim 1 for R^2 or a group convertible thereto; or

(d) preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein p represents 1 which comprises reduction of a compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, m, n and q are as defined in claim 1 and L^{3-} represents a suitable counter ion such as a halogen atom; or

(e) deprotecting a compound of formula (I) or converting groups which are protected; and optionally thereafter

(f) interconversion to other compounds of formula (I).